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Advocate of Peace.

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A Peace League Among the Nations.

In his recent address before the faculty and students of the University of St. Andrews, on his reflection as Lord Rector of the institution, Andrew Carnegie took up and dealt with the subject of Peace in a more thorough and extended way than he has ever done before. We are glad to be able to give our readers in this issue a large portion of this vigorous address, including most of the important parts of it. The first part, which we omit, was devoted to a recapitulation of the sentiments of the early Christian writers on the subject of war and to the citation of the well-known opinions of eminent men who have, as Mr. Carnegie does, condemned war as the greatest curse and crime which has afflicted the human race.

It is a very great service which Mr. Carnegie is rendering to the cause of humanity in taking advantage, as he does, of every fitting occasion to set forth his intense abomination of the whole system of what he aptly calls the murder of man by man under the name of war. He treats the question almost as if it were the only important one before the world, and deserved the highest and persistent attention of all men who seek to advance the cause of human good. In doing this he is essentially right. For from whatever point of view it be looked at—the rational, the moral, the humanitarian or the economic—the prob-

lem of the abolition of war and militarism is the greatest and most urgent general problem of the day. Up to the present time, the governments, either through intellectual blindness or moral weakness and vacillation, have resisted all appeals made to them and have persisted in staving the question off, and in going steadily on from bad to worse. But they cannot do this much longer. If the coming Hague Conference does not deal with it, another conference at no distant day will be forced to do so. The peoples of the civilized world are fast coming to feel toward the prevailing militarism much as the masses of the Russian people have long felt toward the old order of things in the Czar's empire, which is now going to pieces.

Mr. Carnegie does not stop with theoretic and sentimental inveighing against the monstrous absurdity and wickedness of war. He urges the immediate adoption of practical means for its extinction, as all intelligent peace workers now do. He believes that the instrumentality already so successfully used in numerous cases in allaying quarrels and averting hostilities during the past century, that is, arbitration, will of itself, in time, finally destroy war. But this process impresses him, in the present advanced stage of progress, as unnecessarily slow. He believes that a swifter destruction of the evil is perfectly feasible.

The scheme by which he proposes that war shall be abolished at one stroke is that of a League of Peace among the nations. This plan he has frequently proposed of late in speeches and magazine articles, and he returns to it in the St. Andrew's address. He thinks that even three of the great nations—the United States, France and Great Britain, for example—united in the determination to prevent war might henceforth make it impossible in any quarter of the globe, and is sure that five of the great powers could abolish it at once and forever.

The Constitution of the League he does not elaborate in detail; but only gives two features of the way in which it might supposedly act in case any nation should persist in disobeying its wish,—which would, in his judgment, probably never occur: first, a boycott of the offending nation, and, second, if worst came to worst, a compulsion by force, each of the allied powers agreeing in advance to furnish or provide for a certain contingent of troops or ships to execute the will of the League.

Of the practicability of a league of peace among the nations in some form there is not the least doubt,